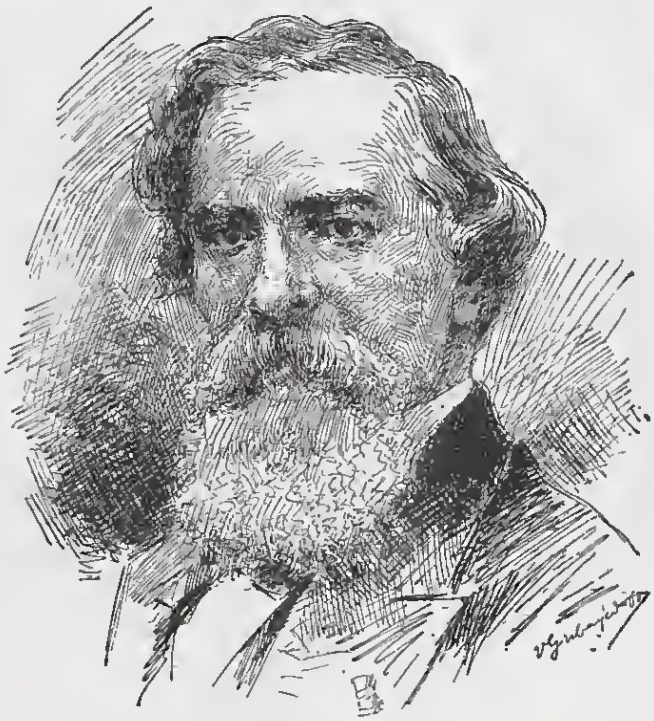
THE AMERICAN ART GALLERIES

MADISON SQUARE SOUTH, NEW YORK

TWO IMPORTANT PAINTINGS

BY



N. V. DIAZ

TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE

BY ORDER OF

THE CONTINENTAL TRUST CO., TRUSTEES

FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 9TH, 1897

(AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SALE OF THE TYLER COLLECTION)

DIAZ DE LA PEÑA

(NARCISSE VIRGILE)

Born at Bordeaux, August 21, 1808. His parents were banished from Spain on account of political troubles, and at ten years of age Diaz was left an orphan in a strange country. At fifteen years of age he was apprenticed to a maker of porcelain, where his talent first displayed itself. He quarrelled with and left his master, and subsequently spent several years in most bitter poverty. After his ability as a most wonderful colorist was recognized, Diaz painted and sold many pictures, working even too constantly, as if endeavoring by the accumulation of a vast fortune to avenge the poverty of his youth. Medals, 1844, 1846, 1848. Legion of Honor, 1851. Died, from the bite of a viper, November 18, 1876. Diploma to the Memory of Deceased Artists (*Exposition Universelle*), 1878. "In the group of painters beyond the average, Diaz de la Peña was the great artist of the fantastical. Anything served him as a pretext for bringing to light his marvellous aptitude as a colorist. He rendered the enchantments of the landscape flooded with sunshine or the forest plunged in luminous twilight, with beams filtering through the thick leafage; he dazzled the eye with all the seductions of a grand colorist; by these obvious qualities, which affect even the uninitiated spectator, he got closer to the latter than any other painter of his time. He was the grand virtuoso of the palette, making sport of difficulties. With him everything was of the first impulse; his work was thrown off with brio; the enchantment of the color carries it along. We can imagine him in the solitudes of the forest of Fontainebleau, making the wooden leg resound on the earth and singing with all his lungs to let off his exuberant nature."

54

Spring

Signed at the left. Height, 86 inches; width, 55 inches.

55

Autumn

Signed at the left. Height, 86 inches; width, 55 inches.

Press of J. J. Little & Co.
Astor Place, New York

Press of J. J. Little & Co.
Astor Place, New York